

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7247

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DEPT PASS IO/SCT, ACDA AND NRC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IAEA, TECH, PARM

SUBJECT: IAEA REGIONAL FUEL CYCLE CENTERS STUDY

1. MISOFF (GABBERT) MET WITH MECKONI, CATLIN AND PENDER (BENNETT ON LEAVE) RECENTLY TO OBTAIN STATUS REPORT ON SUBJECT STUDY, INCLUDING INDICATION OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND IDENTIFICATION OF PROBLEM AREAS.

2. BENNETT HAS STARTED WORK AND IS MAKING PROGRESS ON DEVELOPMENT OF MATHEMATICAL MODELS. PROGRAMMER TO WORK WITH HIM IS NEEDED ASAP, HOWEVER, HOPEFULLY BY EARLY APRIL. SELECTION OF CANDIDATES IS IN PROCESS (PROBABLY LARRY REYNOLDS, OAK RIDGE), BUT FINAL ACTION MUST AWAIT DDG ZHELUDEV'S RETURN LATER THIS WEEK. SINCE IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT ALL ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE FOR PROGRAMMER TO MOVE, ETC., AND BE HERE BY EARLY APRIL, MISOFF SUGGESTED THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO HAVING PROGRAMMER COME OVER FOR PRELIMINARY VISIT FOR FEW WEEKS IN APRIL/MAY AND SUBSEQUENTLY RETURN TO PACK UP AND BRING HIS FAMILY AT LATER

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DATE. MECKONI REACTED QUITE FAVORABLY TO THIS

SUGGESTION.

3. ON INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF STUDY, AGENCY INVITED PIERRE HUET, FORMERLY WITH EUROCHEMIC AND NOW WITH FRENCH GOVERNMENT, AND DAVID PIERSON, UK NATIONAL ASSOCIATED WITH URENCO, TO VISIT AGENCY SEPARATELY LAST WEEK FOR DISCUSSIONS, WHICH APPARENTLY WERE QUITE USEFUL. PENDER IS PUTTING TOGETHER PRELIMINARY DOCUMENT ON THIS SUBJECT, WHICH HOPEFULLY COULD BE REVIEWED, EXPANDED, MODIFIED, ETC., DURING TWO-DAY MEETING WITH HELP OF ONE OR TWO CONSULTANTS (INCLUDING PALFREY OR KLEIN OR MCNEIL FROM U.S.) ON MARCH 29-30. OBJECTIVE IS TO HAVE A DRAFT WORKING DOCUMENT READY FOR ADVANCE DISTRIBUTION AND CONSIDERATION BY WIDER GROUP OF EXPERTS (NOT RPT NOT LESS THAN TEN) FROM SEVERAL COUNTRIES AT A MEETING TO BE CONVENED APRIL 26-30. DRAFT WOULD BE REVISED DURING MAY, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT RESULTS OF THIS MEETING, SENT TO CONSULTANTS FOR REVIEW, AND CONSIDERED AGAIN AT MEETING OF GROUP OF EXPERTS IN LATE JUNE. FINAL REVISIONS, EDITING AND TRANSLATION WOULD TAKE PLACE IN JULY AND AUGUST.

4. FORTHCOMING UNEXPECTED DEPARTURE THIS MONTH OF ROBERT FITTS WILL LEAVE GAP IN CRITICAL AREA OF FUEL FABRICATION AND TRANSPORT, WHICH MECKONI AND CATLIN ARE CONSIDERING HOW BEST TO FILL. IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO BRING IN OUTSIDE EXPERT TO COORDINATE THIS ASPECT OF STUDY.

5. MECKONI HOPES TO OBTAIN COST-FREE EXPERT IN REPROCESSING FROM JAPAN, AND IN WASTE MANAGEMENT FROM SWEDEN. HE PLANS TO APPROACH CANADIANS INFORMALLY TO INQUIRE RE POSSIBILITY OBTAINING SOME ADDITIONAL HELP IN ONE OF FOLLOWING AREAS: SPENT FUEL STORAGE, REPROCESSING, WASTE MANAGEMENT, FUEL FABRICATION, OR RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL TRANSPORT. THERE IS GOOD CHANCE THAT AUSTRIANS WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SOME COST-FREE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSISTANCE. MECKONI WILL BE TALKING WITH THEM NEXT WEEK.

6. THERE DOES NOT RPT NOT APPEAR TO BE MUCH MOVEMENT IN OTHER AREAS TO BE COVERED BY THE STUDY AND THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN SOME SLIPPAGE IN PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS IN THESE AREAS. MISOFF EXPECTS TO RECEIVE SHORTLY A REVISED SCHEDULE OF

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS, WHICH WILL FOLLOW IN DUE COURSE. WE WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSING HOW AGENCY PLANS TO UTILIZE THE SPECIAL U.S. CONTRIBUTION OF \$100,000 FOR THIS STUDY. MECKONI DOES NOT RPT NOT WANT TO MOVE TOO FAST ON THIS, HOWEVER, SINCE HE HAS SEVERAL IRONS IN THE FIRE FOR OBTAINING COST-FREE ASSISTANCE, AND HE WOULD PREFER TO WAID UNTIL HE GETS RESPONSES ON SOME OF THESE, IN ORDER TO HAVE BETTER FIX ON WHAT HIS REAL NEEDS ARE GOING TO BE. WE EXPECT THINGS SHOULD BEGIN TO JELL ON THIS FRONT IN ANOTHER TOW-THREE WEEKS OR SO. (MECKONI ALSO HAS TO CONSIDER EXACTLY HOW HE PLANS TO USE THE IBRD AND UNEP CASH CONTRIBUTIONS AS WELL.)

7. MISSION INTENDS TO FOLLOW THIS MATTER CLOSELY AND REPORT PERIODICALLY. BELIEVE MOST IMMEDIATE NEED IS TO CONSIDER QUESTION OF U.S. PARTICIPATION AT PROPOSED MARCH 29-30 MEETING. STONE

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